

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

This Amendment cancels Claims 28, 30-31 and 33-34; and adds new Claims 35-36. Support for the amendments is found in the specification and claims as originally filed. In particular, support for new Claims 35-36 is found in original Claims 13-14. No new matter would be introduced by entry of these amendments.

Upon entry of these amendments, Claims 35-36 will be pending in this application. Claim 35 is independent.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing and reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, in light of the remarks that follow.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to their representative during the interview on March 11, 2008.

The silica glass crucible of the present invention has a structure that includes a quartz glass powder layer on the surface of a quartz glass crucible. The quartz glass powder layer reinforces the quartz glass crucible and prevents deformation at high temperatures. Specification at page 11, line 12 to page 12, line 2.

Claims 28, 30-31 and 33-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over WO 01/92609 ("Ohama") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,389,582 ("Loxley"). Claims 28, 30-31 and 33-34 are canceled, so the rejection is moot and should be withdrawn.

Ohama discloses a multilayer structured quartz glass crucible, whose structure has at least three layers comprising: a translucent outer layer made of naturally occurring quartz glass and having a large number of pores, a translucent intermediate layer, made of synthetic quartz glass and having a large number of pores, and a transparent inner layer substantially free from pores and made of a synthetic quartz glass. Ohama at abstract.

The Office Action at page 4, lines 1-5, relies upon Loxley for disclosing silica particle size. Loxley discloses cristobalite-seeded quartz glass crucibles produced from a quartz refractory composition consisting essentially of milled particles of fused quartz with an average particle size from 1 to 8 microns and a minute amount of particles of a special crystallization aid having an average particle size of from 1 to 8 microns. Loxley at abstract; column 6, lines 20-26.

However, the cited prior art fails to suggest the independent Claim 35 limitations of a "quartz glass crucible, wherein a quartz glass powder layer is formed on the whole or in a ring configuration on the outside surface of the crucible, and/or in a ring configuration on a part of the inside surface being not contacted with a molten silicon".

Thus, pending Claims 35-36 are patentable over the cited prior art.

Claims 33-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 33-34 are canceled, so the rejection is moot and should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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